

The Income Tax Act, 1961

The Second Schedule Procedure for Recovery of Tax

[See sections 222 and 276]

Part-I General Provisions

Definitions.

1. In this Schedule, unless the context otherwise requires,—

(a) “**certificate**”, except in rules 7, 44, 65 and sub-rule (2) of rule 66, means the certificate drawn up by the Tax Recovery Officer under sections 222 in respect of any assessee referred to in that section;

(b) “**defaulter**” means the assessee mentioned in the certificate;

(c) “**execution**”, in relation to a certificate, means recovery of arrears in pursuance of the certificate;

(d) “**movable property**” includes growing crops;

(e) “**officer**” means a person authorised to make an attachment or sale under this Schedule;

(f) “**rule**” means a rule contained in this Schedule; and

(g) “**share in a corporation**” includes stock, debenture-stock, debentures or bonds.

Issue of notice.

2. When a certificate has been drawn up by the Tax Recovery Officer for the recovery of arrears under this Schedule, the Tax Recovery Officer shall cause to be served upon the defaulter a notice requiring the defaulter to pay the amount specified in the certificate within fifteen days from the date of service of the notice and intimating that in default steps would be taken to realise the amount under this Schedule.

When certificate may be executed.

3. No step in execution of a certificate shall be taken until the period of fifteen days has elapsed since the date of the service of the notice required by the preceding rule :

Provided that, if the Tax Recovery Officer is satisfied that the defaulter is likely to conceal, remove or dispose of the whole or any part of such of his movable property as would be liable to attachment in execution of a decree of a civil court and that the realisation of the amount of the certificate would in consequence be delayed or obstructed, he may at any time direct, for reasons to be recorded in writing, an attachment of the whole or any part of such property:

Provided further that if the defaulter whose property has been so attached furnishes security to the satisfaction of the Tax Recovery Officer, such attachment shall be cancelled from the date on

which such security is accepted by the Tax Recovery Officer.

Mode of recovery.

4. If the amount mentioned in the notice is not paid within the time specified therein or within such further time as the Tax Recovery Officer may grant in his discretion, the Tax Recovery Officer shall proceed to realise the amount by one or more of the following modes :—

(a) by attachment and sale of the defaulter's movable property;

(b) by attachment and sale of the defaulter's immovable property;

(c) by arrest of the defaulter and his detention in prison;

(d) by appointing a receiver for the management of the defaulter's movable and immovable properties.

Interest, costs and charges recoverable.

5. There shall be recoverable, in the proceedings in execution of every certificate,—

(a) such interest upon the amount of tax or penalty or other sum to which the certificate relates as is payable in accordance with sub-section (2) of sections 220, and

(b) all charges incurred in respect of—

(i) the service of notice upon the defaulter to pay the arrears, and of warrants and other processes, and

(ii) all other proceedings taken for realising the arrears.

Purchaser's title.

6. (1) Where property is sold in execution of a certificate, there shall vest in the purchaser merely the right, title and interest of the defaulter at the time of the sale, even though the property itself be specified.

(2) Where immovable property is sold in execution of a certificate, and such sale has become absolute, the purchaser's right, title and interest shall be deemed to have vested in him from the time when the property is sold, and not from the time when the sale becomes absolute.

Suit against purchaser not maintainable on ground of purchase being made on behalf of plaintiff.

7. (1) No suit shall be maintained against any person claiming title under a purchase certified by the Tax Recovery Officer in the manner laid down in this Schedule, on the ground that the purchase was made on behalf of the plaintiff or on behalf of someone through whom the plaintiff claims.

(2) Nothing in this section shall bar a suit to obtain a declaration that the name of any purchaser certified as aforesaid was inserted in the certificate fraudulently or without the consent of the real

purchaser, or interfere with the right of a third person to proceed against that property, though ostensibly sold to the certified purchaser, on the ground that it is liable to satisfy a claim of such third person against the real owner.

Disposal of proceeds of execution.

8. (1) Whenever assets are realised by sale or otherwise in execution of a certificate, the proceeds shall be disposed of in the following manner, namely :—

(a) they shall first be adjusted towards the amount due under the certificate in execution of which the assets were realised and the costs incurred in the course of such execution;

(b) if there remains a balance after the adjustment referred to in clause (a), the same shall be utilised for satisfaction of any other amount recoverable from the assessee under this Act which may be due on the date on which the assets were realised; and

(c) the balance, if any, remaining after the adjustments under clauses (a) and (b) shall be paid to the defaulter.

(2) If the defaulter disputes any adjustment under clause (b) of sub-rule (1), the Tax Recovery Officer shall determine the dispute.

General bar to jurisdiction of civil courts, save where fraud alleged.

9. Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Act, every question arising between the Tax Recovery Officer and the defaulter or their representatives, relating to the execution, discharge or satisfaction of a certificate, or relating to the confirmation or setting aside by an order under this Act of a sale held in execution of such certificate, shall be determined, not by suit, but by order of the Tax Recovery Officer before whom such question arises :

Provided that a suit may be brought in a civil court in respect of any such question upon the ground of fraud.

Property exempt from attachment.

10. (1) All such property as is by the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908), exempted from attachment and sale in execution of a decree of a civil court shall be exempt from attachment and sale under this Schedule.

(2) The Tax Recovery Officer's decision as to what property is so entitled to exemption shall be conclusive.

Investigation by Tax Recovery Officer.

11. (1) Where any claim is preferred to, or any objection is made to the attachment or sale of, any property in execution of a certificate, on the ground that such property is not liable to such attachment or sale, the Tax Recovery Officer shall proceed to investigate the claim or objection :

Provided that no such investigation shall be made where the Tax Recovery Officer considers that

the claim or objection was designedly or unnecessarily delayed.

(2) Where the property to which the claim or objection applies has been advertised for sale, the Tax Recovery Officer ordering the sale may postpone it pending the investigation of the claim or objection, upon such terms as to security or otherwise as the Tax Recovery Officer shall deem fit.

(3) The claimant or objector must adduce evidence to show that—

(a) (in the case of immovable property) at the date of the service of the notice issued under this Schedule to pay the arrears, or

(b) (in the case of movable property) at the date of the attachment,

he had some interest in, or was possessed of, the property in question.

(4) Where, upon the said investigation, the Tax Recovery Officer is satisfied that, for the reason stated in the claim or objection, such property was not, at the said date, in the possession of the defaulter or of some person in trust for him or in the occupancy of a tenant or other person paying rent to him, or that, being in the possession of the defaulter at the said date, it was so in his possession, not on his own account or as his own property, but on account of or in trust for some other person, or partly on his own account and partly on account of some other person, the Tax Recovery Officer shall make an order releasing the property, wholly or to such extent as he thinks fit, from attachment or sale.

(5) Where the Tax Recovery Officer is satisfied that the property was, at the said date, in the possession of the defaulter as his own property and not on account of any other person, or was in the possession of some other person in trust for him, or in the occupancy of a tenant or other person paying rent to him, the Tax Recovery Officer shall disallow the claim.

(6) Where a claim or an objection is preferred, the party against whom an order is made may institute a suit in a civil court to establish the right which he claims to the property in dispute; but, subject to the result of such suit (if any), the order of the Tax Recovery Officer shall be conclusive.

Removal of attachment on satisfaction or cancellation of certificate.

12. Where—

(a) the amount due, with costs and all charges and expenses resulting from the attachment of any property or incurred in order to hold a sale, are paid to the Tax Recovery Officer, or

(b) the certificate is cancelled,

the attachment shall be deemed to be withdrawn and, in the case of immovable property, the withdrawal shall, if the defaulter so desires, be proclaimed at his expense, and a copy of the proclamation shall be affixed in the manner provided by this Schedule for a proclamation of sale of immovable property.

Officer entitled to attach and sell.

13. The attachment and sale of movable property and the attachment and sale of immovable property may be made by such persons as the Tax Recovery Officer may from time to time direct.

Defaulting purchaser answerable for loss on resale.

14. Any deficiency of price which may happen on a resale by reason of the purchaser's default, and all expenses attending such resale, shall be certified to the Tax Recovery Officer by the officer holding the sale, and shall, at the instance of either the Tax Recovery Officer or the defaulter, be recoverable from the defaulting purchaser under the procedure provided by this Schedule:

Provided that no such application shall be entertained unless filed within fifteen days from the date of resale.

Adjournment or stoppage of sale.

15. (1) The Tax Recovery Officer may, in his discretion, adjourn any sale hereunder to a specified day and hour; and the officer conducting any such sale may, in his discretion, adjourn the sale, recording his reasons for such adjournment :

Provided that, where the sale is made in, or within the precincts of, the office of the Tax Recovery Officer, no such adjournment shall be made without the leave of the Tax Recovery Officer.

(2) Where a sale of immovable property is adjourned under sub-rule (1) for a longer period than one calendar month, a fresh proclamation of sale under this Schedule shall be made unless the defaulter consents to waive it.

(3) Every sale shall be stopped if, before the lot is knocked down, the arrears and costs (including the costs of the sale) are tendered to the officer conducting the sale, or proof is given to his satisfaction that the amount of such arrears and costs has been paid to the Tax Recovery Officer who ordered the sale.

Private alienation to be void in certain cases.

16. (1) Where a notice has been served on a defaulter under rule 2, the defaulter or his representative in interest shall not be competent to mortgage, charge, lease or otherwise deal with any property belonging to him except with the permission of the Tax Recovery Officer, nor shall any civil court issue any process against such property in execution of a decree for the payment of money.

(2) Where an attachment has been made under this Schedule, any private transfer or delivery of the property attached or of any interest therein and any payment to the defaulter of any debt, dividend or other moneys contrary to such attachment, shall be void as against all claims enforceable under the attachment.

Prohibition against bidding or purchase by officer.

17. No officer or other person having any duty to perform in connection with any sale under this Schedule shall, either directly or indirectly, bid for, acquire or attempt to acquire any interest in the property sold.

Prohibition against sale on holidays.

18. No sale under this Schedule shall take place on a Sunday or other general holiday recognised by the State Government or on any day which has been notified by the State Government to be a local holiday for the area in which the sale is to take place.

Assistance by police.

19. Any officer authorised to attach or sell any property or to arrest the defaulter or charged with any duty to be performed under this Schedule, may apply to the officer-in-charge of the nearest police station for such assistance as may be necessary in the discharge of his duties, and the authority to whom such application is made shall depute a sufficient number of police officers for furnishing such assistance.

Entrustment of certain functions by Tax Recovery Officer.

19A. A Tax Recovery Officer may, with the previous approval of the Joint Commissioner, entrust any of his functions as the Tax Recovery Officer to any other officer lower than him in rank (not being lower in rank than an Inspector of Income-tax) and such officer shall, in relation to the functions so entrusted to him, be deemed to be a Tax Recovery Officer.

Part-II Attachment and Sale of Movable Property

Attachment

Warrant.

20. Except as otherwise provided in this Schedule, when any movable property is to be attached, the officer shall be furnished by the Tax Recovery Officer (or other officer empowered by him in that behalf) a warrant in writing and signed with his name specifying the name of the defaulter and the amount to be realised.

Service of copy of warrant.

21. The officer shall cause a copy of the warrant to be served on the defaulter.

Attachment.

22. If, after service of the copy of the warrant, the amount is not paid forthwith, the officer shall proceed to attach the movable property of the defaulter.

Property in defaulter's possession.

23. Where the property to be attached is movable property (other than agricultural produce) in the possession of the defaulter, the attachment shall be made by actual seizure, and the officer shall keep the property in his own custody or the custody of one of his subordinates and shall be responsible for due custody thereof:

Provided that when the property seized is subject to speedy and natural decay or when the expense

of keeping it in custody is likely to exceed its value, the officer may sell it at once.

Agricultural produce.

24. Where the property to be attached is agricultural produce the attachment shall be made by affixing a copy of the warrant of attachment—

(a) where such produce is growing crop,—on the land on which such crop has grown, or

(b) where such produce has been cut or gathered,—on the threshing floor or place for treading out grain or the like, or fodder-stack, on or in which it is deposited,

and another copy on the outer door or on some other conspicuous part of the house in which the defaulter ordinarily resides, or with the leave of the Tax Recovery Officer, on the outer door or on some other conspicuous part of the house in which he carries on business or personally works for gain, or in which he is known to have last resided or carried on business or personally worked for gain. The produce shall, thereupon, be deemed to have passed into the possession of the Tax Recovery Officer.

Provisions as to agricultural produce under attachment.

25. (1) Where agricultural produce is attached, the Tax Recovery Officer shall make such arrangements for the custody, watching, tending, cutting and gathering thereof as he may deem sufficient; and he shall have power to defray the cost of such arrangements.

(2) Subject to such conditions as may be imposed by the Tax Recovery Officer in this behalf, either in the order of attachment or in any subsequent order, the defaulter may tend, cut, gather and store the produce and do any other act necessary for maturing or preserving it; and, if the defaulter fails to do all or any of such acts, any person appointed by the Tax Recovery Officer in this behalf may, subject to the like conditions, do all or any of such acts, and the costs incurred by such person shall be recoverable from the defaulter as if they were included in the certificate.

(3) Agricultural produce attached as a growing crop shall not be deemed to have ceased to be under attachment or to require reattachment merely because it has been severed from the soil.

(4) Where an order for the attachment of a growing crop has been made at a considerable time before the crop is likely to be fit to be cut or gathered, the Tax Recovery Officer may suspend the execution of the order for such time as he thinks fit, and may, in his discretion, make a further order prohibiting the removal of the crop pending the execution of the order of attachment.

(5) A growing crop which from its nature does not admit of being stored shall not be attached under this rule at any time less than twenty days before the time at which it is likely to be fit to be cut or gathered.

Debts and shares, etc.

26. (1) In the case of—

(a) a debt not secured by a negotiable instrument,

(b) a share in a corporation, or

(c) other movable property not in the possession of the defaulter except property deposited in, or in the custody of, any court, the attachment shall be made by a written order prohibiting,—

(i) in the case of the debt—the creditor from recovering the debt and the debtor from making payment thereof until the further order of the Tax Recovery Officer;

(ii) in the case of the share—the person in whose name the share may be standing from transferring the same or receiving any dividend thereon;

(iii) in the case of the other movable property (except as aforesaid)—the person in possession of the same from giving it over to the defaulter.

(2) A copy of such order shall be affixed on some conspicuous part of the office of the Tax Recovery Officer, and another copy shall be sent, in the case of the debt, to the debtor, in the case of the share, to the proper officer of the corporation, and in the case of the other movable property (except as aforesaid), to the person in possession of the same.

(3) A debtor prohibited under clause (i) of sub-rule (1) may pay the amount of his debt to the Tax Recovery Officer, and such payment shall discharge him as effectually as payment to the party entitled to receive the same.

Attachment of decree.

27. (1) The attachment of a decree of a civil court for the payment of money or for sale in enforcement of a mortgage or charge shall be made by the issue to the civil court of a notice requesting the civil court to stay the execution of the decree unless and until—

(i) the Tax Recovery Officer cancels the notice, or

(ii) the Tax Recovery Officer or the defaulter applies to the court receiving such notice to execute the decree.

(2) Where a civil court receives an application under clause (ii) of sub-rule (1), it shall, on the application of the Tax Recovery Officer or the defaulter and subject to the provisions of the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908), proceed to execute the attached decree and apply the net proceeds in satisfaction of the certificate.

(3) The Tax Recovery Officer shall be deemed to be the representative of the holder of the attached decree, and to be entitled to execute such attached decree in any manner lawful for the holder thereof.

Share in movable property.

28. Where the property to be attached consists of the share or interest of the defaulter in movable property belonging to him and another as co-owners, the attachment shall be made by a notice to the defaulter prohibiting him from transferring the share or interest or charging it in any way.

Salary of Government servants.

29. Attachment of the salary or allowances of servants of the Government or a local authority may be made in the manner provided by rule 48 of Order 21 of the First Schedule to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (5 of 1908), and the provisions of the said rule shall, for the purposes of this rule, apply subject to such modifications as may be necessary.

Attachment of negotiable instrument.

30. Where the property is a negotiable instrument not deposited in a court nor in the custody of a public officer, the attachment shall be made by actual seizure, and the instrument shall be brought before the Tax Recovery Officer and held subject to his orders.

Attachment of property in custody of court or public officer.

31. Where the property to be attached is in the custody of any court or public officer, the attachment shall be made by a notice to such court or officer, requesting that such property, and any interest or dividend becoming payable thereon, may be held subject to the further orders of the Tax Recovery Officer by whom the notice is issued:

Provided that, where such property is in the custody of a court, any question of title or priority arising between the Tax Recovery Officer and any other person, not being the defaulter, claiming to be interested in such property by virtue of any assignment, attachment or otherwise, shall be determined by such court.

Attachment of partnership property.

32. (1) Where the property to be attached consists of an interest of the defaulter, being a partner, in the partnership property, the Tax Recovery Officer may make an order charging the share of such partner in the partnership property and profits with payment of the amount due under the certificate, and may, by the same or subsequent order, appoint a receiver of the share of such partner in the profits, whether already declared or accruing and of any other money which may become due to him in respect of the partnership, and direct accounts and inquiries and make an order for the sale of such interest or such other order as the circumstances of the case may require.

(2) The other persons shall be at liberty at any time to redeem the interest charged or, in the case of a sale being directed, to purchase the same.

Inventory.

33. In the case of attachment of movable property by actual seizure, the officer shall, after attachment of the property, prepare an inventory of all the property attached, specifying in it the place where it is lodged or kept, and shall forward the same to the Tax Recovery Officer and a copy of the inventory shall be delivered by the officer to the defaulter.

Attachment not to be excessive.

34. The attachment by seizure shall not be excessive, that is to say, the property attached shall be as nearly as possible proportionate to the amount specified in the warrant.

Seizure between sunrise and sunset.

35. Attachment by seizure shall be made after sunrise and before sunset and not otherwise.

Power to break open doors, etc.

36. The officer may break open any inner or outer door or window of any building and enter any building in order to seize any movable property if the officer has reasonable grounds to believe that such building contains movable property liable to seizure under the warrant and the officer has notified his authority and intention of breaking open if admission is not given. He shall, however, give all reasonable opportunity to women to withdraw.

Sale**Sale.**

37. The Tax Recovery Officer may direct that any movable property attached under this Schedule or such portion thereof as may seem necessary to satisfy the certificate shall be sold.

Issue of proclamation.

38. When any sale of movable property is ordered by the Tax Recovery Officer, the Tax Recovery Officer shall issue a proclamation, in the language of the district, of the intended sale, specifying the time and place of sale and whether the sale is subject to confirmation or not.

Proclamation how made.

39. (1) Such proclamation shall be made by beat of drum or other customary mode,—

(a) in the case of property attached by actual seizure—

(i) in the village in which the property was seized, or, if the property was seized in a town or city, then, in the locality in which it was seized; and

(ii) at such other places as the Tax Recovery Officer may direct;

(b) in the case of property attached otherwise than by actual seizure, in such places, if any, as the Tax Recovery Officer may direct.

(2) A copy of the proclamation shall also be affixed in a conspicuous part of the office of the Tax Recovery Officer.

Sale after fifteen days.

40. Except where the property is subject to speedy and natural decay or when the expense of keeping it in custody is likely to exceed its value, no sale of movable property under this Schedule shall, without the consent in writing of the defaulter, take place until after the expiry of at least fifteen days calculated from the date on which a copy of the sale proclamation was affixed in the office of the Tax Recovery Officer.

Sale of agricultural produce.

41. (1) Where the property to be sold is agricultural produce, the sale shall be held,—

(a) if such produce is a growing crop—on or near the land on which such crop has grown, or

(b) if such produce has been cut or gathered—at or near the threshing floor or place for treading out grain or the like, or fodder-stack, on or in which it is deposited:

Provided that the Tax Recovery Officer may direct the sale to be held at the nearest place of public resort, if he is of opinion that the produce is thereby likely to sell to greater advantage.

(2) Where, on the produce being put up for sale,—

(a) a fair price, in the estimation of the person holding the sale, is not offered for it, and

(b) the owner of the produce, or a person authorised to act on his behalf, applies to have the sale postponed till the next day or, if a market is held at the place of sale, the next market day,

the sale shall be postponed accordingly, and shall be then completed, whatever price may be offered for the produce.

Special provisions relating to growing crops.

42. (1) Where the property to be sold is a growing crop and the crop from its nature admits of being stored but has not yet been stored, the day of the sale shall be so fixed as to admit of the crop being made ready for storing before the arrival of such day, and the sale shall not be held until the crop has been cut or gathered and is ready for storing.

(2) Where the crop from its nature does not admit of being stored or can be sold to a greater advantage in an unripe stage (*e.g.*, as green wheat), it may be sold before it is cut and gathered, and the purchaser shall be entitled to enter on the land, and to do all that is necessary for the purpose of tending or cutting or gathering the crop.

Sale to be by auction.

43. The property shall be sold by public auction in one or more lots as the officer may consider advisable, and if the amount to be realised by sale is satisfied by the sale of a portion of the property, the sale shall be immediately stopped with respect to the remainder of the lots.

Sale by public auction.

44. (1) Where movable property is sold by public auction, the price of each lot shall be paid at the time of sale or as soon after as the officer holding the sale directs and in default of payment, the property shall forthwith be resold.

(2) On payment of the purchase-money, the officer holding the sale shall grant a certificate specifying the property purchased, the price paid and the name of the purchaser, and the sale shall become absolute.

(3) Where the movable property to be sold is a share in goods belonging to the defaulter and a co-owner, and two or more persons, of whom one is such co-owner, respectively bid the same sum for such property or for any lot, the bidding shall be deemed to be the bidding of the co-owner.

Irregularity not to vitiate sale, but any person injured may sue.

45. No irregularity in publishing or conducting the sale of movable property shall vitiate the sale, but any person sustaining substantial injury by reason of such irregularity at the hand of any other person may institute a suit in a civil court against him for compensation, or (if such other person is the purchaser) for the recovery of the specific property and for compensation in default of such recovery.

Negotiable instruments and shares in a corporation.

46. Notwithstanding anything contained in this Schedule, where the property to be sold is a negotiable instrument or a share in a corporation, the Tax Recovery Officer may, instead of directing the sale to be made by public auction, authorise the sale of such instrument or share through a broker.

Order for payment of coin or currency notes to the Assessing Officer.

47. Where the property attached is current coin or currency notes, the Tax Recovery Officer may, at any time during the continuance of the attachment, direct that such coins or notes shall be credited to the Central Government and the amount so credited shall be dealt with in the manner specified in rule 8.

Part-III Attachment and Sale of Immovable Property

Attachment

Attachment.

48. Attachment of the immovable property of the defaulter shall be made by an order prohibiting the defaulter from transferring or charging the property in any way and prohibiting all persons from taking any benefit under such transfer or charge.

Service of notice of attachment.

49. A copy of the order of attachment shall be served on the defaulter.

Proclamation of attachment.

50. The order of attachment shall be proclaimed at some place on or adjacent to the property attached by beat of drum or other customary mode, and a copy of the order shall be affixed on a conspicuous part of the property and on the notice board of the office of the Tax Recovery Officer.

Attachment to relate back from the date of service of notice.

51. Where any immovable property is attached under this Schedule, the attachment shall relate

back to, and take effect from, the date on which the notice to pay the arrears, issued under this Schedule, was served upon the defaulter.

Sale

Sale and proclamation of sale.

52. (1) The Tax Recovery Officer may direct that any immovable property which has been attached, or such portion thereof as may seem necessary to satisfy the certificate, shall be sold.

(2) Where any immovable property is ordered to be sold, the Tax Recovery Officer shall cause a proclamation of the intended sale to be made in the language of the district.

Contents of proclamation.

53. A proclamation of sale of immovable property shall be drawn up after notice to the defaulter, and shall state the time and place of sale, and shall specify, as fairly and accurately as possible,—

(a) the property to be sold;

(b) the revenue, if any, assessed upon the property or any part thereof;

(c) the amount for the recovery of which the sale is ordered;

(cc) the reserve price, if any, below which the property may not be sold; and

(d) any other thing which the Tax Recovery Officer considers it material for a purchaser to know, in order to judge the nature and value of the property.

Mode of making proclamation.

54. (1) Every proclamation for the sale of immovable property shall be made at some place on or near such property by beat of drum or other customary mode, and a copy of the proclamation shall be affixed on a conspicuous part of the property and also upon a conspicuous part of the office of the Tax Recovery Officer.

(2) Where the Tax Recovery Officer so directs, such proclamation shall also be published in the Official Gazette or in a local newspaper, or in both; and the cost of such publication shall be deemed to be costs of the sale.

(3) Where the property is divided into lots for the purpose of being sold separately, it shall not be necessary to make a separate proclamation for each lot, unless proper notice of the sale cannot, in the opinion of the Tax Recovery Officer, otherwise be given.

Time of sale.

55. No sale of immovable property under this Schedule shall, without the consent in writing of the defaulter, take place until after the expiration of at least thirty days calculated from the date on which a copy of the proclamation of sale has been affixed on the property or in the office of the Tax Recovery Officer, whichever is later.

Sale to be by auction.

56. The sale shall be by public auction to the highest bidder and shall be subject to confirmation by the Tax Recovery Officer :

Provided that no sale under this rule shall be made if the amount bid by the highest bidder is less than the reserve price, if any, specified under clause (cc) of rule 53.

Deposit by purchaser and resale in default.

57. (1) On every sale of immovable property, the person declared to be the purchaser shall pay, immediately after such declaration, a deposit of twenty-five per cent on the amount of his purchase money, to the officer conducting the sale; and, in default of such deposit, the property shall forthwith be resold.

(2) The full amount of purchase money payable shall be paid by the purchaser to the Tax Recovery Officer on or before the fifteenth day from the date of the sale of the property.

Procedure in default of payment.

58. In default of payment within the period mentioned in the preceding rule, the deposit may, if the Tax Recovery Officer thinks fit, after defraying the expenses of the sale, be forfeited to the Government, and the property shall be resold, and the defaulting purchaser shall forfeit all claims to the property or to any part of the sum for which it may subsequently be sold.

Authority to bid.

59. (1) Where the sale of a property, for which a reserve price has been specified under clause (cc) of rule 53, has been postponed for want of a bid of an amount not less than such reserve price, it shall be lawful for an Assessing Officer, if so authorised by the Principal Chief Commissioner or Chief Commissioner or Principal Commissioner or Commissioner in this behalf, to bid for the property on behalf of the Central Government at any subsequent sale.

(2) All persons bidding at the sale shall be required to declare, if they are bidding on their own behalf or on behalf of their principals. In the latter case, they shall be required to deposit their authority, and in default their bids shall be rejected.

(3) Where the Assessing Officer referred to in sub-rule (1) is declared to be the purchaser of the property at any subsequent sale, nothing contained in rule 57 shall apply to the case and the amount of the purchase price shall be adjusted towards the amount specified in the certificate.

Application to set aside sale of immovable property on deposit.

60. (1) Where immovable property has been sold in execution of a certificate, the defaulter, or any person whose interests are affected by the sale, may, at any time within thirty days from the date of the sale, apply to the Tax Recovery Officer to set aside the sale, on his depositing—

(a) the amount specified in the proclamation of sale as that for the recovery of which the sale was ordered, with interest thereon at the rate of one and one-fourth per cent for every month

or part of a month, calculated from the date of the proclamation of sale to the date when the deposit is made; and

(b) for payment to the purchaser, as penalty, a sum equal to five per cent of the purchase money, but not less than one rupee.

(2) Where a person makes an application under rule 61 for setting aside the sale of his immovable property, he shall not, unless he withdraws that application, be entitled to make or prosecute an application under this rule.

Application to set aside sale of immovable property on ground of non-service of notice or irregularity.

61. Where immovable property has been sold in execution of a certificate, such Income-tax Officer as may be authorised by the Principal Chief Commissioner or Chief Commissioner or Principal Commissioner or Commissioner in this behalf, the defaulter, or any person whose interests are affected by the sale, may, at any time within thirty days from the date of the sale, apply to the Tax Recovery Officer to set aside the sale of the immovable property on the ground that notice was not served on the defaulter to pay the arrears as required by this Schedule or on the ground of a material irregularity in publishing or conducting the sale:

Provided that—

(a) no sale shall be set aside on any such ground unless the Tax Recovery Officer is satisfied that the applicant has sustained substantial injury by reason of the non-service or irregularity; and

(b) an application made by a defaulter under this rule shall be disallowed unless the applicant deposits the amount recoverable from him in the execution of the certificate.

Setting aside sale where defaulter has no saleable interest.

62. At any time within thirty days of the sale, the purchaser may apply to the Tax Recovery Officer to set aside the sale on the ground that the defaulter had no saleable interest in the property sold.

Confirmation of sale.

63. (1) Where no application is made for setting aside the sale under the foregoing rules or where such an application is made and disallowed by the Tax Recovery Officer, the Tax Recovery Officer shall (if the full amount of the purchase money has been paid) make an order confirming the sale, and, thereupon, the sale shall become absolute.

(2) Where such application is made and allowed, and where, in the case of an application made to set aside the sale on deposit of the amount and penalty and charges, the deposit is made within thirty days from the date of the sale, the Tax Recovery Officer shall make an order setting aside the sale :

Provided that no order shall be made unless notice of the application has been given to the persons affected thereby.

Return of purchase money in certain cases.

64. Where a sale of immovable property is set aside, any money paid or deposited by the purchaser on account of the purchase, together with the penalty, if any, deposited for payment to the purchaser, and such interest as the Tax Recovery Officer may allow, shall be paid to the purchaser.

Sale certificate.

65. (1) Where a sale of immovable property has become absolute, the Tax Recovery Officer shall grant a certificate specifying the property sold, and the name of the person who at the time of sale is declared to be the purchaser.

(2) Such certificate shall state the date on which the sale became absolute.

Postponement of sale to enable defaulter to raise amount due under certificate.

66. (1) Where an order for the sale of immovable property has been made, if the defaulter can satisfy the Tax Recovery Officer that there is reason to believe that the amount of the certificate may be raised by the mortgage or lease or private sale of such property, or some part thereof, or of any other immovable property of the defaulter, the Tax Recovery Officer may, on his application, postpone the sale of the property comprised in the order for sale, on such terms, and for such period as he thinks proper, to enable him to raise the amount.

(2) In such case, the Tax Recovery Officer shall grant a certificate to the defaulter, authorising him, within a period to be mentioned therein, and notwithstanding anything contained in this Schedule, to make the proposed mortgage, lease or sale:

Provided that all moneys payable under such mortgage, lease or sale shall be paid, not to the defaulter, but to the Tax Recovery Officer:

Provided also that no mortgage, lease or sale under this rule shall become absolute until it has been confirmed by the Tax Recovery Officer.

Fresh proclamation before re-sale.

67. Every re-sale of immovable property, in default of payment of the purchase money within the period allowed for such payment, shall be made after the issue of a fresh proclamation in the manner and for the period hereinbefore provided for the sale.

Bid of co-sharer to have preference.

68. Where the property sold is a share of undivided immovable property, and two or more persons, of whom one is a co-sharer, respectively bid the same sum for such property or for any lot, the bid shall be deemed to be the bid of the co-sharer.

Acceptance of property in satisfaction of amount due from the defaulter.

68A. (1) Without prejudice to the provisions contained in this Part, an Assessing Officer, duly authorised by the Principal Chief Commissioner or Chief Commissioner or Principal Commissioner or

Commissioner in this behalf, may accept in satisfaction of the whole or any part of the amount due from the defaulter the property, the sale of which has been postponed for the reason mentioned in sub-rule (1) of rule 59, at such price as may be agreed upon between the Assessing Officer and the defaulter.

(2) Where any property is accepted under sub-rule (1), the defaulter shall deliver possession of such property to the Assessing Officer and on the date the possession of the property is delivered to the Assessing Officer, the property shall vest in the Central Government and the Central Government shall, where necessary, intimate the concerned Registering Officer appointed under the Registration Act, 1908 (16 of 1908), accordingly.

(3) Where the price of the property agreed upon under sub-rule (1) exceeds the amount due from the defaulter, such excess shall be paid by the Assessing Officer to the defaulter within a period of three months from the date of delivery of possession of the property and where the Assessing Officer fails to pay such excess within the period aforesaid, the Central Government shall, for the period commencing on the expiry of such period and ending with the date of payment of the amount remaining unpaid, pay simple interest at one-half per cent for every month or part of a month to the defaulter on such amount.

Time limit for sale of attached immovable property.

68B. (1) No sale of immovable property shall be made under this Part after the expiry of [seven] years from the end of the financial year in which the order giving rise to a demand of any tax, interest, fine, penalty or any other sum, for the recovery of which the immovable property has been attached, has become conclusive under the provisions of sections 245-I or, as the case may be, final in terms of the provisions of Chapter XX:

[**Provided** that the Board may, for reasons to be recorded in writing, extend the aforesaid period for a further period not exceeding three years:]

Provided [further] that where the immovable property is required to be re-sold due to the amount of highest bid being less than the reserve price or under the circumstances mentioned in rule 57 or rule 58 or where the sale is set aside under rule 61, the aforesaid period of limitation for the sale of the immovable property shall stand extended by one year.

(2) In computing the period of limitation under sub-rule (1), the period—

(i) during which the levy of the aforesaid tax, interest, fine, penalty or any other sum is stayed by an order or injunction of any court; or

(ii) during which the proceedings of attachment or sale of the immovable property are stayed by an order or injunction of any court; or

(iii) commencing from the date of the presentation of any appeal against the order passed by the Tax Recovery Officer under this Schedule and ending on the day the appeal is decided,

shall be excluded :

Provided that where immediately after the exclusion of the aforesaid period, the period of limitation

for the sale of the immovable property is less than 180 days, such remaining period shall be extended to 180 days and the aforesaid period of limitation shall be deemed to be extended accordingly.

(3) Where any immovable property has been attached under this Part before the 1st day of June, 1992, and the order giving rise to a demand of any tax, interest, fine, penalty or any other sum, for the recovery of which the immovable property has been attached, has also become conclusive or final before the said date, that date shall be deemed to be the date on which the said order has become conclusive or, as the case may be, final.

(4) Where the sale of immovable property is not made in accordance with the provisions of sub-rule (1), the attachment order in relation to the said property shall be deemed to have been vacated on the expiry of the time of limitation specified under this rule.

Part-IV Appointment of Receiver

Appointment of receiver for business.

69. (1) Where the property of a defaulter consists of a business, the Tax Recovery Officer may attach the business and appoint a person as receiver to manage the business.

(2) Attachment of a business under this rule shall be made by an order prohibiting the defaulter from transferring or charging the business in any way and prohibiting all persons from taking any benefit under such transfer or charge, and intimating that the business has been attached under this rule. A copy of the order of attachment shall be served on the defaulter, and another copy shall be affixed on a conspicuous part of the premises in which the business is carried on and on the notice board of the office of the Tax Recovery Officer.

Appointment of receiver for immovable property.

70. Where immovable property is attached, the Tax Recovery Officer may, instead of directing a sale of the property, appoint a person as receiver to manage such property.

Powers of receiver.

71. (1) Where any business or other property is attached and taken under management under the foregoing rules, the receiver shall, subject to the control of the Tax Recovery Officer, have such powers as may be necessary for the proper management of the property and the realisation of the profits, or rents and profits, thereof.

(2) The profits, or rents and profits, of such business or other property, shall, after defraying the expenses of management, be adjusted towards discharge of the arrears, and the balance, if any, shall be paid to the defaulter.

Withdrawal of management.

72. The attachment and management under the foregoing rules may be withdrawn at any time at the discretion of the Tax Recovery Officer, or if the arrears are discharged by receipt of such profits and

rents or are otherwise paid.

Part-V Arrest and Detention of The Defaulter

Notice to show cause.

73. (1) No order for the arrest and detention in civil prison of a defaulter shall be made unless the Tax Recovery Officer has issued and served a notice upon the defaulter calling upon him to appear before him on the date specified in the notice and to show cause why he should not be committed to the civil prison, and unless the Tax Recovery Officer, for reasons recorded in writing, is satisfied—

(a) that the defaulter, with the object or effect of obstructing the execution of the certificate, has, after the drawing up of the certificate by the Tax Recovery Officer, dishonestly transferred, concealed, or removed any part of his property, or

(b) that the defaulter has, or has had since the drawing up of the certificate by the Tax Recovery Officer, the means to pay the arrears or some substantial part thereof and refuses or neglects or has refused or neglected to pay the same.

(2) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (1), a warrant for the arrest of the defaulter may be issued by the Tax Recovery Officer if the Tax Recovery Officer is satisfied, by affidavit or otherwise, that with the object or effect of delaying the execution of the certificate, the defaulter is likely to abscond or leave the local limits of the jurisdiction of the Tax Recovery Officer.

(3) Where appearance is not made in obedience to a notice issued and served under sub-rule (1), the Tax Recovery Officer may issue a warrant for the arrest of the defaulter.

(3A) A warrant of arrest issued by a Tax Recovery Officer under sub-rule (2) or sub-rule (3) may also be executed by any other Tax Recovery Officer within whose jurisdiction the defaulter may for the time being be found.

(4) Every person arrested in pursuance of a warrant of arrest under this rule shall be brought before the Tax Recovery Officer issuing the warrant as soon as practicable and in any event within twenty-four hours of his arrest (exclusive of the time required for the journey):

Provided that, if the defaulter pays the amount entered in the warrant of arrest as due and the costs of the arrest to the officer arresting him, such officer shall at once release him.

Explanation.—For the purposes of this rule, where the defaulter is a Hindu undivided family, the karta thereof shall be deemed to be the defaulter.

Hearing.

74. When a defaulter appears before the Tax Recovery Officer in obedience to a notice to show cause or is brought before the Tax Recovery Officer under rule 73, the Tax Recovery Officer shall give the defaulter an opportunity of showing cause why he should not be committed to the civil prison.

Custody pending hearing.

75. Pending the conclusion of the inquiry, the Tax Recovery Officer may, in his discretion, order the defaulter to be detained in the custody of such officer as the Tax Recovery Officer may think fit or release him on his furnishing security to the satisfaction of the Tax Recovery Officer for his appearance when required.

Order of detention.

76. (1) Upon the conclusion of the inquiry, the Tax Recovery Officer may make an order for the detention of the defaulter in the civil prison and shall in that event cause him to be arrested if he is not already under arrest:

Provided that in order to give the defaulter an opportunity of satisfying the arrears, the Tax Recovery Officer may, before making the order of detention, leave the defaulter in the custody of the officer arresting him or of any other officer for a specified period not exceeding 15 days, or release him on his furnishing security to the satisfaction of the Tax Recovery Officer for his appearance at the expiration of the specified period if the arrears are not so satisfied.

(2) When the Tax Recovery Officer does not make an order of detention under sub-rule (1) he shall, if the defaulter is under arrest, direct his release.

Detention in and release from prison.

77. (1) Every person detained in the civil prison in execution of a certificate may be so detained,—

(a) where the certificate is for a demand of an amount exceeding two hundred and fifty rupees—for a period of six months, and

(b) in any other case—for a period of six weeks:

Provided that he shall be released from such detention—

(i) on the amount mentioned in the warrant for his detention being paid to the officer-in-charge of the civil prison, or

(ii) on the request of the Tax Recovery Officer on any ground other than the grounds mentioned in rules 78 and 79.

(2) A defaulter released from detention under this rule shall not, merely by reason of his release, be discharged from his liability for the arrears; but he shall not be liable to be rearrested under the certificate in execution of which he was detained in the civil prison.

Release.

78. (1) The Tax Recovery Officer may order the release of a defaulter who has been arrested in execution of a certificate upon being satisfied that he has disclosed the whole of his property and has placed it at the disposal of the Tax Recovery Officer and that he has not committed any act of bad faith.

(2) If the Tax Recovery Officer has ground for believing the disclosure made by a defaulter under

sub-rule (1) to have been untrue, he may order the rearrest of the defaulter in execution of the certificate, but the period of his detention in the civil prison shall not in the aggregate exceed that authorised by rule 77.

Release on ground of illness.

79. (1) At any time after a warrant for the arrest of a defaulter has been issued, the Tax Recovery Officer may cancel it on the ground of his serious illness.

(2) Where a defaulter has been arrested, the Tax Recovery Officer may release him if, in the opinion of the Tax Recovery Officer, he is not in a fit state of health to be detained in the civil prison.

(3) Where a defaulter has been committed to the civil prison, he may be released therefrom by the Tax Recovery Officer on the ground of the existence of any infectious or contagious disease, or on the ground of his suffering from any serious illness.

(4) A defaulter released under this rule may be rearrested, but the period of his detention in the civil prison shall not in the aggregate exceed that authorised by rule 77.

Entry into dwelling house.

80. For the purpose of making an arrest under this Schedule—

(a) no dwelling house shall be entered after sunset and before sunrise;

(b) no outer door of a dwelling house shall be broken open unless such dwelling house or a portion thereof is in the occupancy of the defaulter and he or other occupant of the house refuses or in any way prevents access thereto; but, when the person executing any such warrant has duly gained access to any dwelling house, he may break open the door of any room or apartment if he has reason to believe that the defaulter is likely to be found there;

(c) no room, which is in the actual occupancy of a woman who, according to the customs of the country, does not appear in public, shall be entered into unless the officer authorised to make the arrest has given notice to her that she is at liberty to withdraw and has given her reasonable time and facility for withdrawing.

Prohibition against arrest of women or minors, etc.

81. The Tax Recovery Officer shall not order the arrest and detention in the civil prison of—

(a) a woman, or

(b) any person who, in his opinion, is a minor or of unsound mind.

Part-VI Miscellaneous

Officers deemed to be acting judicially.

82. Every Principal Chief Commissioner or Chief Commissioner or Principal Commissioner or Commissioner, Tax Recovery Officer or other officer acting under this Schedule shall, in the

discharge of his functions under this Schedule, be deemed to be acting judicially within the meaning of the Judicial Officers Protection Act, 1850 (18 of 1850).

Power to take evidence.

83. Every Principal Chief Commissioner or Chief Commissioner or Principal Commissioner or Commissioner, Tax Recovery Officer or other officer acting under the provisions of this Schedule shall have the powers of a civil court while trying a suit for the purpose of receiving evidence, administering oaths, enforcing the attendance of witnesses and compelling the production of documents.

Continuance of certificate.

84. No certificate shall cease to be in force by reason of the death of the defaulter.

Procedure on death of defaulter.

85. If at any time after the certificate is drawn up by the Tax Recovery Officer the defaulter dies, the proceedings under this Schedule (except arrest and detention) may be continued against the legal representative of the defaulter, and the provisions of this Schedule shall apply as if the legal representative were the defaulter.

Appeals.

86. (1) An appeal from any original order passed by the Tax Recovery Officer under this Schedule, not being an order which is conclusive, shall lie to the Principal Chief Commissioner or Chief Commissioner or Principal Commissioner or Commissioner.

(2) Every appeal under this rule must be presented within thirty days from the date of the order appealed against.

(3) Pending the decision of any appeal, execution of the certificate may be stayed if the appellate authority so directs, but not otherwise.

(4) Notwithstanding anything contained in sub-rule (1), where a Principal Chief Commissioner or Chief Commissioner or Principal Commissioner or Commissioner is authorised to exercise powers as such in respect of any area, then, all appeals against the orders passed before the date of such authorisation by any Tax Recovery Officer authorised to exercise powers as such in respect of that area, or an area which is included in that area, shall lie to such Principal Chief Commissioner or Chief Commissioner or Principal Commissioner or Commissioner.

Review.

87. Any order passed under this Schedule may, after notice to all persons interested, be reviewed by the Principal Chief Commissioner or Chief Commissioner or Principal Commissioner or Commissioner, Tax Recovery Officer or other officer who made the order, or by his successor in office, on account of any mistake apparent from the record.

Recovery from surety.

88. Where any person has under this Schedule become surety for the amount due by the defaulter, he may be proceeded against under this Schedule as if he were the defaulter.

Penalties.

89. [Omitted by the Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Act, 1987, w.e.f. 1-4-1989.]

Subsistence allowance.

90. (1) When a defaulter is arrested or detained in the civil prison, the sum payable for the subsistence of the defaulter from the time of arrest until he is released shall be borne by the Tax Recovery Officer.

(2) Such sum shall be calculated on the scale fixed by the State Government for the subsistence of judgment-debtors arrested in execution of a decree of a civil court.

(3) Sums payable under this rule shall be deemed to be costs in the proceeding:

Provided that the defaulter shall not be detained in the civil prison or arrested on account of any sum so payable.

Forms.

91. The Board may prescribe the form to be used for any order, notice, warrant, or certificate to be issued under this Schedule.

Power to make rules.

92. (1) The Board may make rules, consistent with the provisions of this Act, regulating the procedure to be followed by Principal Chief Commissioners or Chief Commissioners, Principal Commissioners or Commissioners, Tax Recovery Officers and other officers acting under this Schedule.

(2) In particular, and without prejudice to the generality of the power conferred by sub-rule (1), such rules may provide for all or any of the following matters, namely:—

(a) the area within which Principal Chief Commissioners or Chief Commissioners, Principal Commissioners or Commissioners or Tax Recovery Officers may exercise jurisdiction;

(b) the manner in which any property sold under this Schedule may be delivered;

(c) the execution of a document or the endorsement of a negotiable instrument or a share in a corporation, by or on behalf of the Tax Recovery Officer, where such execution or endorsement is required to transfer such negotiable instrument or share to a person who has purchased it under a sale under this Schedule;

(d) the procedure for dealing with resistance or obstruction offered by any person to a purchaser of any immovable property sold under this Schedule, in obtaining possession of the property;

(e) the fees to be charged for any process issued under this Schedule;

(f) the scale of charges to be recovered in respect of any other proceeding taken under this Schedule;

(g) recovery of poundage fee;

(h) the maintenance and custody, while under attachment, of livestock or other movable property, the fees to be charged for such maintenance and custody, the sale of such livestock or property, and the disposal of proceeds of such sale;

(i) the mode of attachment of business.

Saving regarding charge.

93. Nothing in this Schedule shall affect any provision of this Act whereunder the tax is a first charge upon any asset.

Continuance of certain pending proceedings and power to remove difficulties.

94. All proceedings for the recovery of tax pending immediately before the coming into force of the amendments to this Schedule by the Direct Tax Laws (Amendment) Act, 1987 shall be continued under this Schedule as amended by that Act from the stage they had reached, and, for this purpose, every certificate issued by the Assessing Officer under sections 222 before such amendment shall be deemed to be a certificate drawn up by the Tax Recovery Officer under that section after such amendment, and, if any difficulty arises in continuing the said proceedings, the Board may issue (whether by way of modification, not affecting the substance, of any rule in this Schedule or otherwise) general or special orders which appear to it to be necessary or expedient for the purpose of removing the difficulty.

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